



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1985-86 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP JUDGING SLATED FOR NOVEMBER 6-7, 1984

The Federal Government's 1985-86 Duck Stamp design competition will be held on Tuesday November 6 and Wednesday November 7 at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

A total of 1,515 entries depicting various species of North American waterfowl will compete for the honor of gracing the 1985-86 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Contestants represent all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands.

Judging begins at 10 a.m. on November 6 in the Interior Department auditorium at 18th and C Streets, N.W. It will continue on November 7, beginning at 9 a.m., and a winning design is expected by 3 p.m. that day.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Federal Duck Stamp program, which was begun in 1934 to raise revenue from waterfowl hunters to add waterfowl habitat to the National Wildlife Refuge System. The design for each year's colorful revenue stamp, which now costs \$7.50, is selected through the Federal Government's only regularly sponsored art competition, which draws novice and professional artists from throughout the wildlife art world. The Duck Stamp is the longest-running series in U.S. revenue stamp history.

Duck Stamps are required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. Over 89 million have been sold to hunters and a growing number of other conservationists and stamp collectors. Duck Stamps have raised \$285 million for the purchase of 3.5 million acres of waterfowl habitat.

California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Texas, will field the greatest number of entries this year, with 177, 101, 71, and 69 contestants, respectively. The judges -- an expanded panel of seven non-Government wildlife and art experts -- will narrow the field during the review process. All qualified designs will be on display in the Interior Department auditorium and will be projected on video monitors at the time each one is examined by the judges.

The winning design and the top two runners-up will receive additional public display on November 9-11, 1984, at the prestigious Easton Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland, and from November 17 to December 2 at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, California.